

Sebastopol City Special Council Meeting – July 1, 2014 – Synopsis and Commentary

Council Member Gurney was absent.

Proclamations:

Three volunteer firefighters were recognized: Vanessa Mann (10 years), Matthew Senn (10 years) and his father, Ray Senn (35 years). Also recognized for 40 years of service was Rich Emig, the Superintendent of Public Works. Those of you who have had contact with Rich will know how fortunate this city is to have such a competent and dedicated person in that position.

Consent Calendar:

Approved 4:0 without discussion were:

- A loan of \$411,000 from the state Safe Drinking Water Fund that will begin the process of dealing with the naturally occurring arsenic in well #6. Water bill revenues will cover repayment of this loan. (As it should be, water and sewer are now well on the way to being self-supporting. That's why our rates have increased.)
- Giving notice of a general municipal and statewide election on November 4, 2014. Among other things that will be up for grabs are the seats of Council members Gurney, Slayter and Glass. For about \$327.00 you may run for one of those seats—if you dare. Or you may end up running for your life if you have the temerity to challenge the status quo.
- A rejection of a claim by Randall Miller against the City for unlawful search and seizure, trespassing and use of excessive force in what appears to be a police matter.
- A “refined” apple logo for the City.

Public Comment: (aka open mike)

There were only two speakers. A representative of [Lantern](#) went on a little too long about what the organization was doing, but did thank the City for funding the establishment of their website and logo development. She didn't mention how much they received. The other speaker wanted Sebastopol to get into bed with the City of Richmond to combat home foreclosures there. (She was probably referring to the Richmond in California and not the one in Virginia or Australia—but ya never know.) The other gadflies were not present and this may be a result of **Mayor Jacob's** insistence that speakers stay on topic. This and his gentle push to move the meetings along seem to be taking effect. *

Presentations:

The Capital [Improvement Program](#) for 2014/15 was approved 4:0. See pages three through six at the preceding link for details. **Mayor Jacob** was thrilled that we have budgeted \$110,000 for bike lanes. Unfortunately these lanes consist simply of white lines that will be painted on a vehicular traffic lane. That is NOT a bicycle lane. [THIS is a bicycle lane!](#) Notice the separation between motorized traffic and the lane. Just fix the sidewalks and let people walk. We don't have the cash for real bicycle lanes.

Discussion and Action Items:

The removal of naturally occurring arsenic in well #7 (Cooper Road) is ready to start. This well is a good producer. But in 2006, the EPA changed the standards from 50 parts per billion to 10 ppb. So now we must get under 10ppb. Not good enough for **Mayor Jacob**. The man is focused on getting us to 5ppb. Quoting data he said was gleaned from the National Academy of Sciences, he said that **1 in 500 people will die of arsenic-related problems at 10ppb, while only 1 in 1,000 will die at 5ppb**. And the cost for doing that for Sebastopol water users breaks down to \$.58 per month. First of all, does that mean 7.525% of our residents will die each year? Second, how can he justify their deaths? (Shouldn't

the ppb be zero?) Third, if you leave it at 10ppb, at least they will have more company. Or maybe he will find it profitable to reflect on a quote usually attributed to Mark Twain: **“There are three kinds of lies — lies, damned lies and statistics.”**

In an unrelated action, **Mayor Jacob** was designated the voting delegate to the [League of California Cities Conference](#).

During **Council member reports**, **Vice Mayor Slayter** stated that there is some pressure to remove Supervisor Carrillo from Sonoma Clean Power Board. The Vice Mayor asked for some input from his colleagues. **Council Member Glass** generally excoriated Supervisor Carrillo's behavior but really didn't give an opinion. She did mention that if another city joins the Board, the County of Sonoma and Santa Rosa will each lose a seat and that will provide an opportunity to get rid of Supervisor Carrillo. **Mayor Jacob** agreed and thought it not worth the time and effort, saying we should support only the request from Supervisor Rabbitt to reconsider Supervisor Carrillo's appointment.

There was another **Closed Session** addressing the CVS litigation. [More detail at the Sonoma West Times and News](#).

John Necker

*Duration 2:15!!!!